

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 2, 2010. Claims 1 and 5 to 18 are in the application, with Claims 7 to 12 and 14 to 16 having been withdrawn from consideration. Of the claims presented for examination, Claims 1, 13, 17 and 18 are independent. Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled, Claims 17 and 18 have been newly-added, and Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3 to 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0123072 (Spronk). Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of their rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the remaining claims are respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1 and 13

Independent Claim 1 as amended generally concerns an image processing apparatus for performing print simulation through a computer network. The image processing apparatus comprises a device selector, arranged to select a target printer on the network as a print simulation target, and to select another printer on the network which is used to output a simulation result of the target printer, wherein the whole of the image processing apparatus and the other printer are present at a single site on the network, the target printer is present at another site on the network, and the two sites are connected through the network, and a profile selector, arranged to select a profile required for a color matching process of the print simulation through the network, and to set the selected profile in the target printer, wherein the profile selector searches a database arranged in the

other site, at which the target printer is present, for the selected profile to acquire the selected profile, and if the selected profile is not searched from the database arranged in the other site, the profile selector searches a database arranged in the single site, at which the image processing apparatus is present, for the selected profile to acquire the selected profile. The image processing apparatus further comprises a first transmitter, arranged to transmit image data on which are to be performed a color matching process and a rasterizing process to the target printer, wherein the target printer performs the color matching process according to the selected profile on received image data, and rasterizes the image data on which the color matching process has been performed, a receiver, arranged to receive rasterized image data from the target printer, and a second transmitter, arranged to transmit the received and rasterized image data to the other printer so as to print an image that simulates color of an image which the target printer will print.

Thus, among its many features, Claim 1 provides for (i) selecting a profile required for a color matching process of the print simulation through the network, and setting the selected profile in the target printer, and that (ii) the profile selector searches a database arranged in the other site, at which the target printer is present, for the selected profile to acquire the selected profile, and (iii) if the selected profile is not searched from the database arranged in the other site, the profile selector searches a database arranged in the single site, at which the image processing apparatus is present, for the selected profile to acquire the selected profile.

By virtue of foregoing features (i) to (iii), if the selected profile exists in the database arranged in the other site, the selected profile can be quickly set in the target printer. On the other hand, if the selected profile does not exist in the database arranged in

the other site, the selected profile can be searched from the database arranged in the site. In other words, when the selected profile does not exist in the other site, the color matching process using the selected profile, which exists in the database arranged in the site, can be executed by the target printer.

Turning to the applied reference, Spronk is not seen to disclose or suggest at least foregoing features (i) to (iii), or the attendant benefits provided thereby.

As understood by Applicant, Spronk discloses that a color management unit 16 is connected to a distributed network 28, a color printer 18 is connected to the unit 16 through a LAN 32, a printing press image preparation apparatus 14 is connected to the network 28, and a printing press 22 is connected to the apparatus 14 through a LAN 24. See Spronk, Figure 1. The network 28 is, for example, Internet different from the LAN 24 or 32 as described in paragraph [0046] of Spronk. Thus, the unit 16 and the color printer 18 are present at a site on the network 28, and the apparatus 14 and the printing press 22 are present at another site on the network 28.

Spronk is further seen to disclose that an ID creator unit 20 present at the site, at which the unit 16 is present, generates a printer ID profile and a press ID profile, each of which encapsulates color characteristics of the color printer 18 or the printing press 22, and that consistency of color perception is maintained in color space transformation using the ID profiles by the unit 16. See Spronk, paragraphs [0050] and [0051]. In other words, Spronk is seen to disclose that the ID profiles relate to a color matching process.

As such, the ID profiles of Spronk are seen to be provided to the ID creator unit 20 present at the site, at which the color management unit 16 is present. Thus, if the position is taken that the ID profiles of Spronk corresponds to the claimed selected profile,

and the printing press 22 of Spronk corresponds to the claimed target printer (a point which Applicant does not concede to), the unit 16 of Spronk is merely seen to receive the selected profile from the ID creator unit 20, but is not seen to search databases arranged in the site or the other site for the selected profile.

Accordingly, Spronk is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) selecting a profile required for a color matching process of the print simulation through the network, and setting the selected profile in the target printer, and that (ii) the profile selector searches a database arranged in the other site, at which the target printer is present, for the selected profile to acquire the selected profile, and (iii) if the selected profile is not searched from the database arranged in the other site, the profile selector searches a database arranged in the single site, at which the image processing apparatus is present, for the selected profile to acquire the selected profile.

Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable over the applied reference.

In addition, independent Claim 13 is a method claim which generally corresponds to apparatus Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 13 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons.

Independent Claims 17 and 18

Newly-added independent Claim 17 generally concerns an image processing apparatus for performing print simulation through a computer network. The image processing apparatus comprises a device selector, configured to select a target printer on the network as a print simulation target, and to select another printer on the network which is used to output a simulation result of the target printer, wherein the whole of the image processing apparatus and the other printer are present at a single site on the network, the

target printer is present at another site on the network, and the two sites are connected through the network, a profile selector, configured to select a profile required for a color matching process of the print simulation through the network, and to set the selected profile in the target printer, wherein the profile selector searches a database arranged in the other site, at which the target printer is present, for the selected profile to acquire the selected profile, and if the selected profile is not searched from the database arranged in the other site, the profile selector searches a database arranged in the single site, at which the image processing apparatus is present, for the selected profile to acquire the selected profile, and a format selector, configured to select an image format from a plurality of image formats. The image processing apparatus further comprises a first transmitter, arranged to transmit image data on which are to be performed a color matching process and a rasterizing process, and information indicating the selected image format to the target printer, wherein the target printer performs the color matching process according to the selected profile on received image data, rasterizes the image data on which the color matching process has been performed, and converts the rasterized image data into image data having the selected image format, a receiver, arranged to receive image data having the selected image format from the target printer, and a second transmitter, arranged to transmit the received image data having the selected image format to the other printer so as to print an image that simulates color of an image which the target printer will print. The device selector, the profile selector, and the format selector use a common user interface to select the devices, the profile, and the image format, and the common user interface displays a name of the other site at which the target printer is present.

Thus, among its many features, Claim 17 provides for (i) selecting a profile required for a color matching process of the print simulation through the network, and setting the selected profile in the target printer, and that (ii) the profile selector searches a database arranged in the other site, at which the target printer is present, for the selected profile to acquire the selected profile, (iii) if the selected profile is not searched from the database arranged in the other site, the profile selector searches a database arranged in the single site, at which the image processing apparatus is present, for the selected profile to acquire the selected profile, (iv) an image format is selected from a plurality of image formats, (v) the target printer converts image data, on which the color matching process and a rasterized process are performed, into image data having the selected image format, (vi) a common user interface is used to select the devices, the profile, and the image format, and (vii) the common user interface displays a name of the other site at which the target printer is present.

By virtue of these features, it is possible for a user of the image processing apparatus to easily and quickly select or designate the devices, the profile, and the image format using the common user interface, and to accurately recognize the other site at which the target printer is present.

Spronk is not seen to disclose or suggest at least foregoing features (i) to (vii), or the attendant benefits provided thereby.

Claim 17 is therefore believed to be allowable over Spronk.

In addition, newly-added independent Claim 18 is a method claim which generally corresponds to apparatus Claim 17. Accordingly, Claim 18 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the claims, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

No fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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